

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SALT T 00231 171707Z

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SUBJ: COMMENTS ON TRANSLATION OF SOVIET JULY 9 DEFINITIONS PROPOSAL
(SALT TWO-676)

REF: SALT TWO-666

1. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SEVERAL DIFFERENCES WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE DELEGATION ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE SOVIET JULY 9 PROPOSAL ON DEFINITIONS (REFTEL) AND THE DELEGATION ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ON DEFINITIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE II OF THE MAY 7 JDT DO NOT INVOLVE ANY CHANGES IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEXT. THESE DIFFERENCES REFLECT ONLY TRANSLATION IMPROVEMENTS AND ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE DEFINITIONS OF ICBM LAUNCHERS AND SLBM LAUNCHERS, IN THE JULY 9 TRANSLATION THE ACRONYMS ICBM AND SLBM HAVE BEEN ENCLOSED IN PARENTHESES AND PLACED AFTER "INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE" AND "SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILE" RESPECTIVELY. AN ACRONYM FOR "LAUNCHER" EXISTS IN RUSSIAN AND HAS BEEN USED IN BOTH CASES IN THE RUSSIAN VERSION AS PART OF THE ACRONYM IN THE PARENTHESES PLACED AFTER THE WORD "LAUNCHER." HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ENGLISH DOES NOT HAVE AN ACRONYM FOR "LAUNCHER," THIS NEW ENGLISH

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SECRET

PAGE 02 SALT T 00231 171707Z

TRANSLATION IS BELIEVED BY THE US INTERPRETERS TO BE PREFERABLE

AND IS CLOSER TO AIDE-MEMOIRE USAGE. THE RUSSIAN VERSION OF THIS PART OF THE SOVIET JULY 9 PROPOSAL DOES NOT INVOLVE ANY CHANGE IN LANGUAGE FROM THAT CONTAINED IN THE CORRESPONDING PART OF THE RUSSIAN VERSION OF THE JDT.

3. THE LAST PHRASE IN THE SOVIET JULY 9 SLBM LAUNCHER DEFINITION IS NOW TRANSLATED "INSTALLED IN ANY SUBMARINE, REGARDLESS OF TYPE," RATHER THAN "WHICH ARE INSTALLED IN ANY SUBMARINE REGARDLESS OF TYPE," AS IN THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE JDT. US INTERPRETERS REGARD THE NEW ENGLISH VERSION AS A PREFERABLE TRANSLATION. THEY AGREE THAT AN EquALLY ACCEPTABLE TRANSLATION, CLOSER TO THE US PROPOSAL WOULD BE: "AND INSTALLED IN ANY SUBMARINE REGARDLESS OF ITS TYPE."

4. IN THE TRANSLATION OF THE SOVIET JULY 9 HEAVY BOMBER DEFINITION, THE WORD "WEAPON" IS OMITTED BETWEEN "NUCLEAR" AND "DELIVERY" BOTH TIMES THIS PHRASE APPEARS IN ORDER TO BE CONSISTENT WITH PRESENT US USAGE. HOWEVER, THE RUSSIAN VERSION DOES INCLUDE THE WORD "WEAPON" AND THE US INTERPRETERS BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO USE THE WORD "WEAPON" AFTER THE WORD "NUCLEAR" AND BEFORE "DELIVERY" IN FUTURE TRANSLATIONS.

5. THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE SOVIET JULY 9 PROPOSAL ON DEFINITIONS AS CONTAINED IN REFTEL HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE SOVIET DELEGATION AND IS THE US TRANSLATION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS CHANGES MIGHT BE MADE AND COMMUNICATED TO THE SOVIETS.
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